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Imagery analysis report

New Probable Space-Related Test Facility at Zagorsk Missile & Space Development Center, USSR (S)

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NEW PROBABLE SPACE-RELATED TEST FACILITY AT ZAGORSK MISSILE AND SPACE DEVELOPMENT CENTER, USSR (S)

1. (S/D) A new probable space-related test facility is under construction at Zagorsk Missile and Space Development Center [] USSR. An excavation for a possible control building was first observed in April 1979. In May 1980, a thick-walled inner rectangular housing was under construction and linked to the possible control building by conduit (Figure 1). The test facility remains in an early stage of construction. 25X1
2. (S/D) The location, timing, and method of construction suggest that the test facility may be involved in the development of a new Soviet space launch system. Zagorsk MSDC has a space systems research and development function. The new probable test facility is in the western test operations area where a subscale model (mini J pad) of Tyuratam Space Launch Site J1/2 [] is located. Two launch sites for new space launch vehicles are under construction at Tyuratam (Space Launch Site W, BE [] and Launch Site Y, []). The Zagorsk test facility may be involved in one of these new programs. 25X1 25X1
3. (S/D) The main feature of the facility is an inner rectangular housing, 21 by 17 meters (Figure 2). Possible platform supports were under construction around three sides of the inner housing. The two side supports will be about 10 meters wide and will extend past the front of the inner housing by approximately 16 meters. A third support, 13 meters wide, was being erected in back of the housing, making the overall dimensions of the structure 50 by 36 meters. A track-mounted lattice superstructure, 14 by 14 by 20 meters, has been constructed behind the test facility and may eventually be rolled to a position on top of the test structure. A large crane (also track mounted) was used in construction of the lattice superstructure.
4. (S/D) Although Tyuratam Space Launch Site W and the probable test facility are different in both size and configuration, some general similarities exist between Tyuratam Launch Site Y and the Zagorsk facility (Figure 3). External dimensions of site Y are 62 by 35 meters. The main launch platform supports at site Y are also 10 meters wide, extend from a rectangular housing, and will support a launch platform over an open flame pit. In both instances, a conduit enters from the southeast, connecting the main structures to nearby control buildings.
5. (S/D) Both the new probable test facility and Tyuratam Site Y are still in early stages of construction, making close structural comparisons difficult. There are certain construction differences which at this date tend to reduce the likelihood of a close relationship between Tyuratam Site Y and the probable test facility. The Zagorsk facility is being constructed on a single subgrade level, while site Y at Tyuratam is under construction on two different subgrade levels. The rectangular housing at site Y was constructed on an 11-meter-deep excavation, while the platform supports and flame pit were constructed in a second excavation approximately 24 meters below the launch platform level. Instead of a thick-walled inner housing, site Y has a thin-walled rectangular housing from which the two 10-meter-wide launch platform supports emanate. While differences do exist between site Y and the Zagorsk facility, it is also important to note that the mini J pad at Zagorsk is not a perfect subscale model of Tyuratam's J launch pad. The most significant observable difference was the construction of a tripod-based tower over the simulated exhaust flues of the pad. This tripod tower is not present at Tyuratam Site J.
6. (S/D) A four-axle canister/capsule (can/cap) transporter identified at Zagorsk MSDC on [] (Figure 4) may be related to the construction of the new test facility. The transporter was observed on a concrete pad in the rail transshipment area. The can/cap transporter is used to transport the SS-18 canister and launch control facility capsule. Except for the presence of a MAZ-543 transporter, this was the first identification of a known missile or space frame transporter at Zagorsk MSDC. It is possible that the can/cap transporter is undergoing structural testing and modification. Fenders covering eight rear wheels had been removed. Possible modification of the can/cap transporter may be associated with development of the Y space launch vehicle. A modified can/cap transporter could be used to move Y vehicle stages between the support facility checkout buildings at Tyuratam. 25X1 25X1
7. (S/D) An unidentified transporter (Figure 4), [] long including prime mover, was observed at Zagorsk MSDC on []. The most distinctive feature of the transporter is a wide, four-axle, 16-wheeled section near its midpoint. The transporter has been seen in three different locations on the concrete pad in the transshipment area. On [] (Figure 5), the transporter was pulled up to alignment chocks. Tracks in the dirt which correspond to the transporter's track width indicate a possible maneuverability test. 25X1 25X1 25X1
8. (S/D) While the new transporter is shorter than the can/cap transporter [] meters without prime movers), it is considerably wider and probably has a carrying capacity which exceeds the largest known Soviet missile transporter. Each of the four central axles has an overall track width of []. The can/cap transporter has a track width of []. Three raised platform sections, each having a total height of [], were probably designed to be the main weight-carrying supports on the transporter. Each of these raised sections may also hold weights to simulate load conditions. 25X1 25X1 25X1

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(S/D) All applicable imagery through the information cutoff date of [] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Soviet 25X1
Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [] 25X1

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